

Story of a Country Town.

"Have you always lived in the town?" inquired the man who was smoking the cheap cigar.

"Oh, no," answered the lantern-jawed man. "I was a lawyer in a little town down in the country till about six years ago."

"Did you outgrow the town?" asked the man in the mackintosh.

"Not exactly," was the reply. "But it didn't outgrow me, either. I lived there twenty-seven years."

"Continued, reflectively, "and during that time it never grew at all."

"Any other lawyers there?" asked the man in the slouch hat.

"None that could be called lawyers. There were two or three lawyers that picked up a living by stirring up lawsuits among the farmers, trading jack-knives, and picking cherries on the shares."

"And the people didn't appreciate our abilities?" inquired the man who had his feet on the table.

"They did, sir. For seven years I was the village attorney. It wasn't a very high office, but it was the best they could give a lawyer."

"Big salary?"

"Why, no; there wasn't any regular salary attached to it, but there were fees—there were fees. It was a strong temperance town, and it was my business to prosecute anybody that sold whiskey on the sly."

"Whenever I secured a conviction my fee was \$5."

"Business lively?"

"Not always. There was one man, though, that just would run a bootleg saloon, in spite of everything. I suppose I must have prosecuted that man fifty times while I was the town attorney, and I always proved the charge against him."

"Many a time when I needed a bill to pay the rent with, I have gone out and had that man arrested, proved a clear case against him, had him fined, and got my fee. Poor fellow! He was a tough citizen and made lots of trouble, but I don't hold any grudge against him."

"I should think not. But how was it you came to leave the place?"

"Why, that fellow finally got tired and moved from town," said the lantern-jawed man, with a deep sigh, "and there wasn't anything else for me to do but move away too."—Chicago Tribune.

No Forgery for Him.

Among the candidates for appointment to a vacancy on the police force of an Irish town was one Patrick Murphy, whose appearance before the mayor was hailed with cries of, "He can't write." The mayor said he was only there to take down names of applicants, who would come up a fortnight later for examination.

A friend set Murphy in a fair, round band the goony "Patrick Murphy," and kept him practicing at it assiduously. When the eventful day arrived, "Take that pen," said the mayor, "and write—write your name."

As Pat took up the pen, exclamations arose: "Pat's a writing!" he's got a quill in his fist! Small good will it do him; he can't write with it."

All were dumbfounded when Murphy recorded his name in a bold, round hand, and the mayor declared: "That'll do;" but one of them shouted:

"Ask him to write somebody else's name, yer honor."

"Write my name, Murphy," said the mayor.

"Write yer honor's name," exclaimed Pat. "Me commit forgery, and goin' into the police! I daren't do it, yer honor."—Tid Bits.

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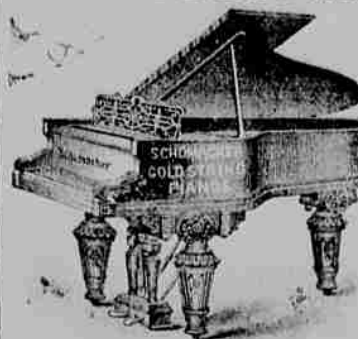
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